

Representative Ruth Fahrbach
Republican Whip
House Republican Office
Legislative Office Building
Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

To the Honorable Representative Fahrbach:

I am writing to request your support of S.B. 1014, an act concerning health insurance coverage for bone marrow testing, sponsored by the honorable Senator Handley.

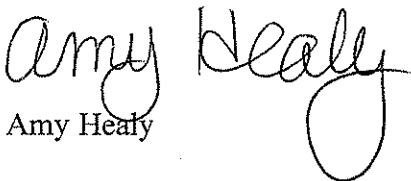
It is imperative that Connecticut joins New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maine, and Massachusetts in their coverage of bone marrow testing fees. As Gina and John Gallivan will testify at the public hearing, bone marrow donor drives are often the only hope for patients suffering from blood-based cancers. There are many individuals who are willing to be tested as bone marrow donors, thus becoming part of the network of donors available to patients through many national and international registries. However, at this point, potential donors living in Connecticut have to pay approximately \$65 to be tested as potential bone marrow matches. This cost may be prohibitive for many individuals and prevent them from being tested.

Gina Gallivan's life was recently saved by a bone marrow (stem-cell) transplant, which cured her life-threatening leukemia. Those of us from Connecticut who attended her bone marrow donor drive had to either pay out of our pockets or rely on the generosity of charitable organizations to have our bills paid, while residents of NH, RI, ME, and MA had their fees covered by their health insurance.

Your vote to pass this bill will allow a wider range of citizens from Connecticut to participate in these bone marrow donor drives; therefore, many lives will be saved in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Amy Healy